



Newsletter of the

Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

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N IS FOR NIDULARIUM

Granted, if the television show *Jeopardy* ever had as an answer “the most popular Bromeliad genus starting with the letter N,” the correct question would be “What is *Neoregelia*?”—and deservedly so, with over one hundred *Neoregelia* species and countless hundreds of hybrids and cultivars. But *Nidularium* would also be an appropriate, if unexpected, response.

Many thanks to Karen Rohter and the Lyon Arboretum Bromeliad Garden Reclamation Team for surprising us at our May meeting with *Nidularium* plants for everyone, culled from an exceptionally overgrown section of the Garden that Karen, Lynette, and Helen are in the process of readying for the upcoming *Bromeliads in Paradise* World Bromeliad Society conference.

Particularly when not in bloom, *Nidularium* can be mistaken for members of other genres, especially *Neoregelia*, but also *Guzmania* and *Vriesea*. Look for spines that are less sharp than those of most *Neoregelia*, and an inflorescence that is short, but that rises above the center cup and is usually in the shape of a star—the name *Nidularium* is derived from the Latin for “relating to a star.” *Nidularium* plants flourish in the hot, humid forests and filtered sunlight of their native Brazil—conditions mimicked on the rainy, humid slopes of the Arboretum, where our *Nidularium* serve as a striking landscape feature defining one section of a hillside.

Since our plants were not in bloom, we’re still not sure what species of *Nidularium* we are cultivating. Ours features a wide green leaf, without the variegation or longitudinal white stripes often found in *Nidularium innocentii*. So we are looking forward to seeing how these plants flourish in our home gardens as well as at the Arboretum.

Many thanks to Lynette, Karen, and Helen for their work in the Garden, for the plants, and for the opportunity to learn more about this striking but often overlooked species.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Lynette, Karen, and Helen—not looking at a *Nidularium*!



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NEWSLETTER

Terese Leber

www.hawaiibromeliadsociety.org

JUNE MEETING

This Saturday, **June 28**, we meet at

Lyon Arboretum at Noon.

Our hospitality hosts are

Terese and Stan (food)

and **Nancy** (drinks).

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF MAY 31, 2014

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade (presiding), Nancy Arakaki, Marcy Doseo, Marie Ferdun, Raleigh Ferdun, Helen Friend, Karen Gollero, John Ishihara, Tessie Labra, Terese Leber, Larry McGraw, Ed Nishiyama, Gail Rabideau, Karen Rohter, Dolores Roldan, Jamie Roldan, Stan Schab, Tom Stuart, Lynette Wageman, and Val Wong.

CONVENED: 12:10; ADJOURNED: 2:45

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Susan announced that long-time HBS member Marie Grininger was in the process of selling her house, and was inviting everyone to help her find new homes for her many Bromeliads. Many of us may remember a work day and HBS meeting at Marie's place overlooking Kalama Valley, and the variety—and size—of her bromeliads, and particularly her *Tillandsia*. For more information, contact Susan or Marie directly.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Tessie reported that our current balance is \$2,839.77. HBS voted to **contribute \$200 to Lyon Arboretum for our use of its facilities in 2014** (moved Karen G., seconded Val; approved).

HOSPITALITY: Our hosts for June are Terese and Stan (food), and Nancy (drinks).

LIBRARY: Lynette reported that we are almost out of *Bromeliads: A Cultural Manual*, the introductory text by Herb Plevier and Joyce L. Brehm published by the Bromeliad Society International in 2003. Several years ago HBS bought 200 copies, and have been making them available to new members. Lynette will check on the price and availability of copies.

IKEBANA MEETING FOLLOW-UP: Val expressed her appreciation to all who participated in and provided feedback on our April "work and play" joint meeting with the Ikebana Institute of the Ohara School, with particular thanks to Tom for his Introduction to Bromeliads lecture, and to Terese for her organizational help.

CORRECTION: the person in the photo with Tom on page 1 of the May newsletter is Jane Aquino, IIOS President.

WINDWARD ORCHID SHOW FOLLOW-UP: Terese presented HBS with a check from the Windward Orchid Society, our honoraria for providing displays in the 2013 and 2014 WOS Spring Shows.

CONFERENCE: Lynette reported that, because of insufficient response from growers on the US continent and abroad, the BSI Board has decided to cancel the plant show portion of the *Bromeliads in Paradise* conference. The deadline for growers to tell BSI that they were entering plants in the competition has passed without enough people signing up to justify having the show. The BSI planning committee is considering canceling the room reservation for the show.

The plant sale is still scheduled to go forward, featuring Hawai'i-based growers. At least three—David Fell, Sharon Petersen, and David Shiigi—have expressed interest in selling their plants, and the HBS conference planning committee is reaching out to other potential vendors. The committee has also suggested to the BSI Board that a section of the Plant Sale Room be reserved for exhibits of locally grown plants—in essence, a "Hawai'i only" show. The BSI Judges School is scheduled for Monday of the conference week, and thus the exhibits could still be judged and awards given.

The HBS committee is also proposing that a portion of the Plant Sale Room be set aside for displays. In addition to the HBS host display, the Cactus and Succulent Society of Hawaii and a bonsai group have expressed interest in setting up displays. Helen will create posters to distribute and publicize the conference and encourage displays, especially by local orchid, anthurium, and garden societies.

Lynette noted that HBS has to arrange for security for the Plant Sale Room, which will involve at least having members monitor the doors to restrict access to the room to registered participants and vendors during the hours when the sale will not be open to the public.

Lynette also noted that we have been asked to provide a space for a banner and some information publicizing *Bromsmatta*, the Eighteenth Australasian Bromeliad Conference to be hosted in April 2015 by the Bromeliad Society of Australia and the Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society.

Gail announced that her daughter has contributed \$250 to the conference and friends another \$250—mahalo to Gail, her daughter, and friends for their generosity.

Lynette reported that BSI has also cancelled the Paradise Cove luau scheduled for Wednesday night. She has talked to The Willows about organizing a replacement dinner, for about \$60 per person, featuring HBS-provided entertainment. At the request of BSI, Lynette is also researching rates and schedules for a Friday night dinner cruise.

The HBS planning committee is in the process of reorganizing the tour schedule. Because of liability concerns, Helen's house will not be part of the Thursday Home and Garden tour, which will include visits to Lyon Arboretum and the Mānoa Heritage Center. Larry will consider making his home available. Raleigh reported that about twenty-two people have signed up for the Sunday Hawai'i Island gardens tour, and about eleven for the Saturday Polynesian Cultural Center/Dole Plantation Village tour. HBS will bring Troy over from Hawai'i Island to administer the tours.

Lynette circulated the letter she has sent to BSI nominating Sharon Petersen for the Wally Berg award.

BROMELIADS IN PARADISE: ALOHA BASKETS

A Request from Karen and Helen

We have filled 25 out of the 30 Baskets we plan on doing. What we are seeking are just a few high quality items to complete the baskets. What members also might want to begin donating, if they are interested, are food items. As we are several months away from the conference, we are suggesting that any food item bought have a sell by date some time in 2015. If a food item doesn't have a sell by date, then we should wait until only a month from the conference time. The Hawaii jams, jellies, and teas are no problem, for example, but the chocolates probably should wait a couple more months.

We can also use more fluffy lei. We want to give everyone some kind of a lei at the Willows dinner

BROMELIADS IN PARADISE: HOSPITALITY

A Request from Terese and Susan

Good local restaurants! Fun things to do and see! Free things to do! We are collecting information for our Hospitality table. Please send visitor-friendly suggestions to Terese.

A RECORD-SETTING AUCTION

Thank you to all who contributed plants—and to everyone who bought them—at our May auction, the biggest and one of the most productive that any of us could remember:

Special Thanks to Marie Grininger for providing trays of *Tillandsia*, and to Susan for collecting them from Marie's house and bringing them to the meeting;

To Sharon Petersen for providing a box full of her registered *Neoregelia* hybrids, and to Tom for bringing them to the meeting;

To the Roldan's for the beautiful *Billbergia*; and

To Tom for combining his duties as auctioneer with information on how to care for and display the different varieties on offer.



As Tom reminded everyone, now is the time we should be acquiring and preparing plants that we might want to display at the conference in three months.

LEFT: Gail, with some of the plants she scored at auction.

RIGHT: After spirited bidding, Larry acquired one of Marie's tree-dwelling *Tillandsia*.



ADVICE WANTED!

We've gotten two queries asking for advice and suggestions: one from a couple planning their conference visit, and one from a bromeliad/terrarium fancier. Please give any suggestions to Terese or Stan for forwarding on, or if you would like to respond directly to either or both, Stan can provide the contact information.

Hi . . . from a wet and cold Melbourne!

My wife Jane and I have booked in for the conference and will arrive in Hawaii a bit early to see the sights around the major islands. We belong to the brom society of Victoria, me being the treasurer and Jane the all-round doer that all clubs need. We have been growing broms for around 10 years and our suburban backyard is now bulging under the strain of too many—just ask either of our kids!! Growing conditions here can be a bit of a challenge—from 4 consecutive days over 42C (nearly 108F!) in January to winters down to freezing overnight and a max of 10C (50F) during the day—without hothouses or permanent overhead protection.

We would be very keen to meet with fellow bromaniacs as we get around the islands. We would be most grateful if you could give us a few contacts who might like a visit from a couple of Aussies. We are in our early 60's—but feel a lot younger! - and are pretty fit. We want to see the real side of the islands and the people rather than just what is served up to the tourists. Anything you can do to lead us in the right direction will be gratefully accepted.

We look forward to your reply and to seeing you all at the conference—must say, as the temperature here gets down to 13 celsius max and 6 overnight, I can't wait to be where you are.
cheers!

I have been interested in terrariums for almost 5 years and have begun an interest in bromeliads for around 2 years, and I've been wanting to combine the two together.

I was thinking of using cryptanthus as the main focus but I'm unsure which plants will go together peacefully. I am very open to ideas and suggestions, so if you suggest other bromeliads that would be great as well!



BROMELIAD GROWING AROUND THE WORLD

One of the perks of growing Bromeliads and belonging to the Hawai'i Bromeliad Society is that you immediately become part of a worldwide community. For a family of plants whose native range is relatively small, Bromeliads and Bromeliad groups and growers can be found on every continent and in most US states—and it can make for interesting and informative reading to check out the newsletters and websites of these many and varied organizations. Especially if you are planning any trips, these sources are always full of information on upcoming Bromeliad shows events, sales, and meetings.

A good place to start is the Bromeliad Society International website (www.bsi.org), which contains a list of affiliate organizations (like the HBS), with links to their individual sites. If you want to practice your language skills while learning about Bromeliads, you could try the Deutsche Bromelien Gesellschaft (Bromeliad Society of Germany), the Bromeliad Society of Japan, or the Sociadade Brasileira de Bromélias. The Bromeliad Society of New Zealand offers helpful articles on, among other issues, collecting and growing Bromeliads from seed, and how to encourage plants to flower when you want them to do, and the latest issue of *Kabbrom*, the Newsletter of the Caboolture and Districts Bromeliad Society (Queensland) has a feature on tending a sick *Nidularium* and the winners of their monthly photo contest. The Newsletter of the East London Bromeliad Society, several of whose members will be making the long trip to *Bromeliads in Paradise*, regularly offers great pictures and news about the Bromeliad growing community in South Africa.

Among US affiliates, the Bromeliad Society of Broward County (Florida) newsletter *Scurf* features good photos and advice (such as “There is no such thing as ‘I’ll only be a minute. I’m just going to pull a few weeds’”), as does the Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Greater Chicago; the March and April newsletters of the Bromeliad Society of San Francisco feature articles about a member’s visit to prominent Hawai'i Bromeliad growers; and for a different perspective, the South East Michigan Bromeliad Society provides “Extensive Information on Growing Bromeliads in Northern Climates.” If you’re planning a visit to northern California, Sacramento is home to the Bromeliad and Carnivorous Plant Society (I wonder if they have a cross-breeding program?).

Finally, although not directly related to Bromeliads, we may all be able to relate to this “Thought for 2014” from the March-April Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society Inc. newsletter, which also has an instructive piece on cryptanthus pups: “Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked, the good fortune to remember the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference!”